

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Nathan Quarles
August 14, 2003

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
8:30 a.m., Thursday, August 27, 2003
Regional Water Board Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Sensitive Watershed Nomination (SWN) to the Board of Forestry for the Elk River Watershed pursuant to Section 916.8 of the Forest Practice Rules

INTRODUCTION

In January 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) directed staff to prepare and present a SWN for five Humboldt County watersheds. The five watersheds are Elk River, Freshwater, Bear, Stitz and Jordan Creek watersheds. The Sensitive Watershed Nomination for Elk River was originally scheduled for the June 26, 2003 Regional Board meeting, but was re-scheduled for the August 27, 2003 Regional Board meeting to allow for more time for review and comment.

Six comment letters were received relative to the Elk River SWN. Two letters were received prior to the June 26 meeting: one from the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and one from Pacific Lumber Company. During the revised comment period, additional comment letters were received from the CDFFP, the California Geological Survey; John Winzler, an Elk River Landowner; and an additional letter from Pacific Lumber Company. The two agency letters provide constructive criticism while the others request that the Elk River SWN not go forward. This Executive Officer Summary Report submits for the record these letters and Regional Water Board staff responses (Attachments 1-12).

The original Executive Officer's Summary Report and Sensitive Watershed Nomination have not yet been altered from the version contained in the June 26, 2003, Regional Water Board meeting agenda package (Attachments 13 and 14).

PRELIMINARY STAFF

RECOMMENDATION: Regional Water Board action is not required for this item; the Board is expected to provide direction to the Executive Officer.